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GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1945, at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the Special General Meeting held on 7th November, 1945.
2. Recommendations of candidates for Fellowship.
3. Announcement of election of new Fellows.
4. Additions to the Library since the meeting of 7th November, 1945 :—

Presented.

Dannreuther, T. : *The Dragonflies of West Sussex*. [Rep. Proc. Littlehampton nat. Sci. Archaeol. Soc. 1939-45. Suppl.] [The author.]

Faune de l'U.R.S.S. : Vol. 5, No. 2. Sokolow (I. I.) : *Arachnides. Hydracarina*, 1940.

Vol. 6, No. 1. Zakhvatkin (A. A.) : *Arachnoidea. Acariens Tyroglyphoides*, 1941.

Semenov-Tian-Shanskij, A. : *Les limites et les subdivisions zoogéographiques de la région paléarctique pour les animaux terrestres, basées sur la distribution géographique des insectes Coléoptères*. Moscow, 1936.

Berezhkov, R. P. : *Opredeleptep' saranchev'ikh' zapadnoi Sibiri*. Novosilirsk, 1937.

Tarkinsky, S. P. : *The Saltatorian Orthopterous insects of the Azerbaidzhan S.S.R.* Moscow, 1940. [Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.]

In addition, separates have been presented by Dr. K. G. Blair, Rao Sahib Y. Ramchandra Rao, and the American Entomological Society.

Purchased.

Hoffmann, A. : *Coléoptères Bruchides et Anthribides*. Faune de France, 44, 8vo. Paris 1945.

Lepesme, P. : *Les Coléoptères des denrées alimentaires et des produits industriels entreposés*. Encyclop. Ent. 22, 1944. 8vo. Paris.

5. Admission of Fellows.
6. Nomination of Officers and Council for 1946.
7. Communications.

(1) **Mr. Horace Donisthorpe.**

Fifty gynandromorphous ants taken by Mr. Desmond P. Walls in a single colony of *Myrmica sabuleti* Meinert on the small island called Ireland's Eye in Dublin Bay in August, 1945. All the specimens are mixed gynandromorphs, or female-male mosaics.

(2) **Dr. L. G. Higgins.**

Two little known works of importance in the systematics of entomology.

1. Gronovius (L. T.). *Zoophylacium Gronovianum, exhibens Animalia*, (1763)–1781.

2. Roesel von Rosenhof (A. J.). *Der monatlich-herausgegebenen Insecten-Belustigung* . . . 1746–1830.

(3) **Dr. B. M. Hobby, M.A., D.Phil.**

What is the Present Status of *Volucella zonaria* Poda (Dipt., SYRPHIDAE) in Britain?

On 7th October, 1945, Mr. B. B. Osmaston took two specimens of this handsome fly on ivy blossom at Westgate-on-Sea, E. Kent, and four females on the same patch of flowers two days later. In presenting the latter insects to the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford University Museum, he stated that he could have secured many more had he known their rarity. Lt.-Col. F. C. Fraser (1945, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **81** : 237–8) reported at least eight specimens seen or captured in Bournemouth, Hants, during August this year, together with circumstantial evidence that the species might be breeding in a nest of *Vespula vulgaris* L. Since 1940 six other specimens have been seen or taken in southern England, while only about the same number were recorded in the previous sixty years. Its large size and conspicuous appearance would almost certainly prevent its being overlooked and its former infrequent appearances have therefore led to the suggestion that it is a rare immigrant species. Recent occurrences on a more generous scale support the view that the insect may now have succeeded in establishing itself here.

(4) Communications and exhibits the titles of which have been received since the circulation of these agenda.

Fellows are particularly requested to bring suitable exhibits to the General Meetings even though it may not be possible to give notice of their intention to do so before the Meeting.

Tea will be served in the Library after the meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER,
1945.

Professor G. D. Hale CARPENTER, M.B.E., D.M., President, in the Chair.

Present, 63 Fellows and 10 Visitors.

The minutes of the General Meeting held on 3rd October, 1945, which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the President.

Consideration was given to the motion "That the name of Professor H. Weber, an Honorary Fellow, be removed from the List of Fellows." After some discussion, the motion was put to the meeting and lost.

The names of the following candidates for election were read :—

For the first time : Francis Bickerstaff, H. Brédo, B. A. Cooper, E. F. Gilmour, E. J. Hudson, Mrs. M. J. Richards, G. Roberts, Prof. W. Roepke, J. W. Siddorn, W. O. Steel, G. B. Thompson, G. F. Woods.

For the second time : R. F. Avery, M.A., R. G. Chatelain, Rev. J. M. Dunning, R. S. Ferry, A. T. Gaul, B.S., H. E. Hammond, F. Hewson, Agnes A. Meikle, B.Sc., L. W. Miller, M. Agr. Sc., J. L. Palmer, O.B.E., F.R.G.S., J. T. Salmon, M.Sc., J. D. Shapland, G. Stoughton-Harris, O. G. Watkins, L. Williams.

The Secretary read the names of the following newly elected Fellows of the Society :—S. R. Gauntlett, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge, Hants; R. A. Green, Caddington Hall, Markyate, near St. Albans, Herts; Monsieur Jean Leclercq, 17, Place Delcour, Liège, Belgium.

Thanks were voted to donors of gifts to the Library since the last Meeting.

Mr. G. R. Fenton, Mr. C. H. Wallace Pugh and Mr. P. B. M. Allan signed the Obligation Book and were admitted Fellows of the Society.

The Secretary read for the first time the following names of Officers and Council nominated for the ensuing year :—

President : Professor G. D. Hale Carpenter, M.B.E., D.M.

Treasurer : Arthur Welti.

Secretary : N. D. Riley, F.Z.S.

Other Members of Council :

C. H. Andrewes, F.R.S.

J. W. Evans, M.A., D.Sc.

G. Fox-Wilson, N.D.H.

R. M. Greenslade.

W. J. Hall, D.Sc.

Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E.

H. E. Hinton, B.Sc., Ph.D.

Captain R. A. Jackson, R.N.

Miss C. E. Longfield.

Sir Guy A. K. Marshall, K.C.M.G.,
D.Sc., F.R.S.

G. E. J. Nixon, B.A.

J. F. Perkins, B.Sc.

C. B. Williams, M.A., Sc.D.

H. B. Williams, LL.D.

Alternative nominations, supported by four properly qualified Fellows, must reach the Secretary before the meeting to be held on 5th December, 1945.

The following papers were read in title :—

“A revision of the genus *Mischocyttarus* de Saussure (Hym. VESPIDAE).”
By O. W. Richards, M.A., D.Sc.

“Observations on the Indo-Malayan species of the genus *Arhopala* Boisduval (Lep. LYCAENIDAE).” By A. S. Corbet, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.C.

“A synopsis of the Brazilian species of *Elsianus* Sharp (Col. ELMIDAE).”
By H. E. Hinton, B.Sc., Ph.D.

“Some Middle East Migrants. Their phenology and ecology.” By E. P. Wiltshire.

Communications were made by Dr. B. M. Hobby and Miss C. E. Longfield, abstracts of which appeared on pp. 29–30.

On the needs for Beginner's Handbooks on British insects, a discussion arose in which Dr. B. M. Hobby, Mr. P. B. M. Allan, Dr. John Smart, Mr. G. E. J. Nixon and others took part; and as a result it was agreed that Council be requested to appoint a committee to consider what practical steps could be taken towards satisfying this need.

In addition, Professor P. A. Buxton exhibited a plant (*Boerhaavia* sp.) with sticky seeds which had attracted and trapped specimens of the common butterfly *Acraea terpsichore* L. in Tanganyika.

Mr. C. N. Hawkins, on behalf of Dr. K. G. Blair, exhibited four male specimens of the Central European Acronictine Moth *Sedina buettneri* Hér. (= *moltrechti* B.-H.) taken by Dr. Blair at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, in September and October, 1945. The species was new to Britain and the specimens had been determined by Mr. W. H. T. Tams. The first example was captured on 26th September, two more were taken on 27th September, another on 3rd October, two on 4th October, and the last on 13th October. Twelve specimens in all were obtained, including the only female (also shown) which was taken by Mr. Hawkins himself at the same locality on 12th October.

Dr. A. M. Easton exhibited a series of *Apion lemoroi* Bois. (Col., Curc.), a species new to Britain, taken on *Polygonum aviculare* L. at Effingham, Surrey. This beetle, though closely related to *Apion humile* Germ., nevertheless differed in many details; the rostrum, thorax, elytra and legs were all slightly longer, and its aedeagus, of which a drawing was shown, was abundantly different.

Mr. R. L. E. Ford exhibited wings of *Phalera bucephala* Linn., the right fore-wing showing a mirror image. Unfortunately the insect had been eaten by a bat and only two wings picked up. The other, the left hind-wing, was normal.

Professor Hale Carpenter said he would not communicate the paper as announced in the agenda but would substitute the following:—

The distinguished author of the new *Faune de l'Empire Français. I. Orthopteroides de l'Afrique du Nord* had again referred to a favourite theme, "Immobilisation réflexe," i.e. the rigid attitude assumed by a Phasmid when roughly disturbed. French authors seemed to be content with saying that such immobility was reflex, and to leave it at that. But a reflex without meaning was a paradox. Why should not such a stimulus produce convulsions just as much as immobility? A selectionist would answer: "Because immobility protects, and has been selected." Immobility was often adopted by insects with warning coloration, and several lantern slides were exhibited showing attitudes for which immobility was necessary, and which made the most of certain brightly coloured areas. One of the most striking illustrations showed a drawing from life by Mr. G. M. Henry, F.R.E.S., of a species of Tettigoniid (*Onomarchus*) in Ceylon which, procryptic at rest, when really threatened stood upright, supported by the four anterior legs only, and displayed vertically to the enemy a series of bright yellow tubercles on the ventral surface of the abdomen. Another example was a desert Mantis (*Eremiaphila*), as figured by Roonwal (1938, *Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond.* (A) 13 : 72), which stood erect on its posterior legs and tip of the abdomen and displayed to the enemy its aborted, round, very dark wings, quite useless for flight. Such a reflex could only have been developed by selection, for otherwise it was self-destructive—the insect was literally asking for trouble! There was evidence that many insects adopting such motionless state of defence had qualities distasteful to vertebrate enemies and often emitted repellent foam.

N. D. RILEY, *Hon. Secretary.*

The next Meeting (Annual Meeting) will be held on Wednesday, 16th January, 1946, at 3.30 p.m.

ADMISSION OF FELLOWS

Any Fellow who has not been formally admitted to the Society under Chapter XIV, Section 4 of the Bye-Laws and attends the meeting on 5th December, 1945, is requested to inform the Registrar before 3.15 p.m. on that date.